to the shortage of teachers and of proper facilities;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to fill up the vacancies of teachers in Navodaya Vidyalayas and to provide the minimum facilities to these Vidyalayas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In view of the fact that the Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme is at its formative stage, that the Vidyalayas are mostly located in buildings offered by the State/Union Territories Governments temporarily and that the teachers are being recruited initially on deputation basis only, certain shortages in the number of teachers and in the facilities do crop up in a few cases. However, all possible immediate remedial measures are being taken to ensure that the children receive proper education.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Cargo support to the National Liners and Shipping Companies

*50. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for extending 40 per cent of cargo support to the national liners and shipping companies; and

(b) if so, by when this is likely to come into operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. No definite time schedule can, however, be indicated as to when it will come into operation.

National policy on culture

*51. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any proposal from the Asom Sahitya Sabha to evolve a national policy on culture; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Apollo group of hospitals in Delhi

*52. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given permission to the Delhi Administration for promoting a joint venture company with the Apollo Group of Hospitals in Delhi for the setting up of a 600-bedded super-speciality hospital;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government are aware that a large number of private clinics/hospitals have come up during the last few years in Delhi which charge exorbitant sums from patients;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to enforce some laws for regulating such private clinics/hospitals and if not, the reasons therefor; and